

Message Text

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17

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 L-03 SY-05 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 SCA-01 PPT-01 DHA-02 /045 W

----- 100057

R 140738Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6760

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, CASC, NI, US

SUBJECT: RETURN OF OFFICIAL PASSPORT OF USAID OFFICIAL

REF: LAGOS 9183

1. THE LONG SAGA OF GORDON K. PROUTY'S DIFFICULTIES WITH THE NIGERIA POLICE CAME TO AN END, WE HOPE, ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, WHEN THE DIRECTOR OF MEA AMERICAS DEPARTMENT EDREMODA RETURNED PROUTY'S OFFICIAL PASSPORT TO EMBASSY'S POLITICAL COUNSELOR BRUCE.

2. PROUTY DEPARTED SEPTEMBER 12 FOR LEAVE WITH HIS FAMILY IN EUROPE. HIS NIGERIAN MULTIPLE REENTRY VISA HAD EXPIRED WHILE IN HANDS OF POLICE AND HE WILL APPLY FOR A VISA AT NIGERIAN EMBASSY BONN. POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT PROUTY'S NAME MIGHT BE ON LOOK-OUT LIST, JUST AS ON JULY 10 WHEN HIS PASSPORT WAS SEIZED BY NIGERIAN IMMIGRATION AT LAGOS AIRPORT, AND THAT BONN EMBASSY WILL REFUSE VISA OR REFERE APPLICATION TO LAGOS FOR APPROVAL. WE HAD CONSIDERED DELAYING PROUTY'S TRIP UNTIL REENTRY VISA COULD BE OBTAINED IN LAGOS, BUT DECIDED NOT TO TAKE RISK THAT PASSPORT MIGHT AGAIN BE ENSNARED BY FMG BUREAUCRACY, ESPECIALLY SINCE PROUTY'S IMMIGRATION FILE IS MARKED AS BEING OF INTEREST TO N.S.O. (NATIONAL SECURITY ORGANIZATION).

3. IF PROUTY OBTAINS REENTRY VISA WITHOUT INCIDENT, HE WILL

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RETURN LAGOS IN ABOUT TWOWEEKS AND COMPLETE TOUR OF DUTY

EARLY OCTOBER. IF VISA DENIED, WE INCLINED LET ISSUE DROP FOR
NOW AND SIMPLY PACK AND SHIP PROUTY'S HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS TO HIS
NEXT POST. NEVERTHELESS WE DO NOT INTEND TO FORGET OR LET
MEA FORGET THIS EXTRAORDINARY THREE MONTH RECORD OF HARASSMENT
OF EMBASSY OFFICIALS.
SIMILARLY, THERE MAY BE APPROPRIATE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH THIS
UNHAPPY SAGA COULD BE CALLED TO ATTENTION OF
NIGERIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON.
EASUM

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